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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66604
DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LMATTESON
3/22/75 EXT. 21512
APPROVED BY S/S-O:LMATTESON
---------- 060190
O 221443Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 065391

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LISBON JERUSALEM FROM
USMISSION NATO 22 MAR 75:

QUOTE S E C R E T USNATO 1596

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

JERUSALEM PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM BRUCE

REF: STATE 065376

1. WE HAD MEETING THIS MORNING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, THE BELGIAN, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN
AMBASSADOR, AND THE BRITISH AND GERMAN CHARGES IN SYG'S OFFICE.
PRIOR TO THE MEETING, FRG CHARGE D'AFFAIRES BOSS AND MYSELF MET
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WITH LUNS, PANSA, AND VAN CAMPEN.

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2. BOSS, IN THE SMALLER MEETING AND LATER IN LARGER MEETING,
CALLED ATTENTION TO CHANGES MADE DURING NIGHT IN COMMUNICATIONS
ON THIS SUBJECT FROM BONN, I. E., BONN DROPPED IDEA OF CALLING FOR
A FULL-FLEDGED NAC.

3. SENSE OF LARGER MEETING AS SUMMED UP BY SYG AND WHICH HE THOUGHT
SHOULD BE REPORTED TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WAS:

A) IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED BY THOSE PRESENT THAT THERE
SHOULD BE NO FORMAL NAC MEETING ON SUBJECT.

B) REPRESENTATIVES THOUGHT NO PRECIPITATE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
AT THIS TIME NOR ANY DEMARCHE MADE AT LEAST UNTIL THE MATTER WAS
LAID BEFORE A LARGER MEETING WHICH LUNS SET FOR FOUR O'CLOCK THIS
AFTERNOON (MARCH 22). THAT MEETING WILL BE OF ALL NATO AMBASSADORS
OR CHARGES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PORTUGUESE.

:) ALL THOSE PRESENT WERE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY EXCERPTS I READ
THEM FROM AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S TELEGRAM(LISBON 1632).

D) IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY FELT BY THOSE PRESENT THAT EVERY CARE SHOULD
BE TAKEN BY NATO AUTHORITIES TO GIVE NO PRETEXT FOR ACCUSATIONS
OF NATO INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. MATTER OF POSSIBLE VISIT OF SYG TO LISBON WAS NEVER MENTIONED.

5. THE IDEA OF INFORMAL BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIET
AUTHORITIES WAS CONSIDERED TO BE POSSIBLY USEFUL BUT NO DEFINITE
AND PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE IN THIS RESPECT EXCEPT FOR
OBSERVATIONS THAT SUCH CONCERSATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY
HANDLED.

6. SEVERAL EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY
HAD DETERIORATED AND IT IS CONTINUING TO DO SO AT AN ALARMING
RATE.

7. BRITISH CHARGE LOGAN REFERRED TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON. FRENCH AMBASSADOR
DE ROSE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY SIMILAR MESSAGE HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED
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TO GISCARD.

8. IN SUM, THE SECRETARY GENERAL FELT, AS DID THE OTHERS, THAT
IT WAS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL WHETHER AT THIS STAGE ANY MOVEMENT BY NATO
MEMBERS COULD AVERT A MORE COMPLETE TAKING OVER OF POWER BY
ACTUAL OR CONTROLLLED COMMUNIST OPERATORS IN PORTUGAL.

9. SYG TOLD ME PRIVATELY HE WOULD PREFER AN ALL-COMMUNIST

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CABINET TO A MIXED ONE.

10. COMMENT: OF COURSE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT COURSE THE INTERCHANGES THIS AFTERNOON WILL FOLLOW. UNDOUBTEDLY, THERE WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON WHAT, IF ANY, ROLE NATO CAN IMMEDIATELY PLAY IN THIS CRISIS.

11. WE HAVE REPEATED THIS TELEGRAM ONLY TO LISBON AND THE SECRETARY'S PARTY. DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE ANY FURTHER DISTRIBUTION IT CONSIDERS ADVISABLE. BRUCE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE065391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:LMATTESON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0266
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750324/aaaaavum.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 065376
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS JERUSALEM PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, ECON, PO, NATO
To: NATO POSTS LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006